

# EVENT LIST

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Introduction to Bibliotherapy	Conrod's, Parliament Street, Ramsey	6.30pm-8.00pm	FREE – info@familylibrary.im or 640650 to reserve seats
Poetry Slam	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas	8.00pm-10.30pm	£4.00 – available from Noa Bakehouse

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Spinning New Tales from Old – Zoe Gilbert workshop	St Andrew's Church, Andreas	11.30am-1.00pm	£15.00 – bookings@manxlitfest.com
Literary Songwriting – Bookshop Band workshop	St Andrew's Church, Andreas	1.30pm-2.30pm	£10.00 – bookings@manxlitfest.com
Folk – Zoe Gilbert & The Bookshop Band	St Andrew's Church, Andreas	7.00pm-9.30pm	£10.00 – Villa Gaiety Box Office*

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Book Fanatics' Quiz Night	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas	8.00pm-10.30pm	£8.00 – Villa Gaiety Box Office*
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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Secret Diary of John Drawbridge	Castle Rushen	5.00pm-6.30pm	£4.00 – MNH website***
Boy Meets Hamster – Birdie Milano	The Alpine, Regent Street, Douglas	5.45pm-7.15pm	FREE – bookings@manxlitfest.com to reserve seats
Influential Women, Powerful Words	Villa Marina Arcade	6.00pm-7.15pm	FREE – bookings@manxlitfest.com to reserve seats
Frankenstein – Ben Haggarty	Gaiety Theatre	8.00pm-10.00pm	£15.00/£12.00 concessions – Villa Gaiety Box Office*

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Writers' Day	King William's College	9.00am-4.00pm	£30.00 – bookings@manxlitfest.com
Storytelling Workshop – Ben Haggarty	King's Court Theatre, King William's College	10.30am-2.30pm	£25.00 – bookings@manxlitfest.com
World of Norm – Jonathan Meres	St John's School, St John's	11.30am-12.30pm	FREE – bookings@manxlitfest.com to reserve seats
Once Upon a Wild Wood Family Day – Chris Riddell	Garey Ny Cloie, St John's	1.30pm-4.30pm	FREE
The Devil, the Tsar and the 3 Dry Biscuits – Ben Haggarty	King's Court Theatre	4.30pm-5.30pm	£5.00 or £15.00 for family of 4 – KCT website**
Poems to Live Your Life By – Chris Riddell	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas	8.00pm-9.30pm	£14.00 – Villa Gaiety Box Office*

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Goth Girl & the Sinister Symphony – Chris Riddell	Castletown Civic Centre	10.30am-11.30am	£5.00 – Villa Gaiety Box Office*
The Story Behind the Songs – Louise Jordan	Castletown Civic Centre	12.15pm-1.15pm	FREE - bookings@manxlitfest.com to reserve seats
Short Story Slam – The Final	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas	3.30pm-6.00pm	FREE
Moonbrella	Peel Cathedral	7.15pm-9.00pm	£6.00 – bookings@manxlitfest.com

\*Villa Gaiety – [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com) or 01624 600555

\*\*King's Court Theatre – [www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingwilliamscollege](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingwilliamscollege) or 0333 666 4466

\*\*\*Manx National Heritage – [manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/meet-philip-ardagh-castle-rushen/](http://manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/meet-philip-ardagh-castle-rushen/)  
General enquiries – email [manxlitfest@gmail.com](mailto:manxlitfest@gmail.com) or visit [manxlitfest.com](http://manxlitfest.com)

# MANX LITFEST 2018

25th - 30th September

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KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE



manxnationalheritage.im



## Frankenstein, sinister symphonies, a wild wood, medieval knights, dark folk tales, moonbrellas... & giant hamsters

When you're planning a literary festival, you need patience. Sometimes, when you invite an author, poet, illustrator or storyteller, they can't come. It seems they have lives outside of Manx Litfest (you know, writing books, attending other festivals). So we tend to ask again, a year or two later, to see if we can entice them over to visit our beautiful little island. And sometimes we have to ask a third time... One such person was Chris Riddell, who has written and illustrated so many books that it's difficult to know where to start – his incredibly popular *Goth Girl* and *Ottoline* series, the books he illustrates for Neil Gaiman, and next month sees the publication of JK Rowling's *The Tales of Beedle The Bard*, which Chris has illustrated. Chris couldn't make it the first two times we invited him – he was Children's Laureate at the time, and in huge demand – but when we asked again earlier this year, he said yes – you see, patience (and dogged persistence) does come up trumps. Chris will be promoting three new books – his picture book *Once Upon a Wild Wood*; *Poems to Live Your Life By*, a collection of classic and traditional poetry he has curated and illustrated; and the paperback publication of *Goth Girl* and the *Sinister Symphony*.

UK storyteller Ben Haggarty wowed audiences on two previous visits to Manx Litfest, and he's back again – this time performing his interpretation of *Frankenstein* as we mark 200 years since the publication of Mary Shelley's classic novel. If you didn't catch Ben on his earlier visits, please do this time – he is a sensational performer.

Performance poet Thommie Gillow is another welcome returning face. Thommie came to our inaugural festival in 2012, when she hosted the first Poetry Slam. Thommie is visiting schools and will host the final event of this year's festival – *Moonbrella*. If you're intrigued about what a moonbrella is, check out page 17 of the programme. What's more, we are honoured to announce that Thommie has agreed to become our third Manx Litfest patron, joining authors Alan Bradley and Chris Ewan.

Over the years we have enjoyed the work of many debut authors, and this year is no exception. The Wednesday night sees Zoe Gilbert talking about *Folk*, a dark, evocative novel which draws inspiration from folk tales – including several from the Isle of Man. In what should be a fabulous night, Zoe will be joined by The Bookshop Band, visiting from Wigtown. Isle of Man authors Elizabeth Brooks and Rona Halsall have had books published this year – *Call of the Curlew* and *Keep You Safe* respectively – and both are involved in events during the festival, including Writers' Day, which is a great event for writers of all levels of ability. Younger readers are in for a real treat this festival. In addition to Chris, we have two prolific children's authors coming over to join in the fun – Philip Ardagh and Jonathan Meres – and another of our debut authors, Birdie Milano. Schools' Day is such a vital part of the festival and this year we have 25 schools and colleges involved, and we are indebted to a small team of Island-based authors who join our visiting guests in delivering workshops and talks to schools.

As always, our sincere thanks to our many sponsors and supporters, and the organising committee and our team of volunteers. Litfest is very much a team effort from all those groups of people – without the work of everyone pulling together, it wouldn't happen. So here's to another six days of literary delights. Indulge yourself in the diverse events on offer, and thank you for your ongoing support.

John Quirk, Festival Director

### Event schedule and ticket details

- |   |                                 |    |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Tuesday September 25            | 9  | At-a-glance daily timetable     |
| 6 | Wednesday September 26          | 13 | Friday/Saturday September 28/29 |
| 7 | Thursday/Friday September 27/28 | 16 | Sunday September 30             |

**Festival office:** 8 Milner Close, Port Erin, Isle of Man, British Isles, IM9 6BG

**Tickets:** Please see individual events for details. Contact the Litfest team on the email address below if any queries **Partner bookseller:** Bridge Bookshop, Port Erin & Ramsey

**Festival email:** manxlitfest@gmail.com **Festival website:** www.manxlitfest.com

**Design:** Festival programme - Isle of Man Advertising & PR; Manx Litfest logo - Ali Crellin

Registered charity number 1100

# Bridge Bookshop

is proud to support Manx Litfest

Find us selling books at festival venues across the Island, or visit our bookshops in Port Erin and Ramsey

Books • Art • Music

Tel : 833376 / 813374 Email : bbs@manx.net

Tuesday, September 25

## Introduction to Bibliotherapy

6.30pm-8.00pm – Conrod's coffee shop, Parliament Street, Ramsey

Come and join the team from the Mobile Family Library and discover what goes on in a Bibliotherapy session. See how the Library uses its wide-ranging book collection and physical artefacts to discover shared experiences, encourage conversation, promote well-being, and help to combat loneliness and isolation.

A fun event for all ages and backgrounds, where you'll see what can be achieved through the power of a book – especially when there's tea and coffee! (drinks and snacks will be available to buy from Conrod's on the night)

Event sponsored by Conrod's coffee shop ([facebook.com/pages/Conrods/168997987138209](https://facebook.com/pages/Conrods/168997987138209))

FREE EVENT – as space is limited, please email [info@familylibrary.im](mailto:info@familylibrary.im) or call 640650 to book a place



## Open Mic Poetry Slam

8.00pm-10.30pm – Noa Bakehouse, Fort Street, Douglas

Coordinated by the team at Poetry Unlimited IOM, this is consistently one of the most popular events during Manx Litfest. Poets have three minutes to perform their work in front of a panel of judges (and the audience), with marks deducted for overrunning their time slot. Previous champs have been Bridge Carter (2012), Georgia Lisette (2013 & 2014), Jennifer Davies (2015), Lisa Creighton (2016) and last year's winner Jackie Morrey-Grace. Who will rule the roost this year?

Event sponsored by Bridge Bookshop ([facebook.com/BridgeBookshop](https://facebook.com/BridgeBookshop))

TICKETS – £4.00 – available from Noa Bakehouse (please note, tickets can be redeemed against a tea/filter coffee/Americano and a slice of cake OR a glass of wine OR a bottle of beer)

## Spinning New Tales from Old - writing workshop with author Zoe Gilbert

11.30am-1.00pm – St Andrew’s Church, Andreas

Zoe, the author of *Folk*, appeared at the Beijing Bookworm Festival in China on behalf of the British Council and was commissioned by Microsoft to create a short story book. She chairs the Short Story Critique Group at Waterstones Piccadilly and co-hosts the Short Story Club at the Word Factory. She is also the co-founder of London Lit Lab, providing creative writing courses for Londoners. She is working on a PhD in Fiction and Creative Writing at the University of Chichester, focusing on the influence of folk tales on contemporary short stories. Her workshop will focus on using folk tales as inspiration for telling new stories.

Event sponsored by *Lingua Franca* ([linguafranca.im](http://linguafranca.im))

**TICKETS – £15.00 – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) (discounted price of £20 if booking both this workshop and the Literary-inspired Songwriting workshop)**



## Literary-inspired Songwriting – workshop with The Bookshop Band

1.30pm-2.30pm – St Andrew’s Church, Andreas

Go behind the scenes with The Bookshop Band and let them guide you through their songwriting process to help you make a start on your very own hit! No previous songwriting or musical experience necessary.

Event sponsored by *Lingua Franca* ([linguafranca.im](http://linguafranca.im))

**TICKETS – £10.00 – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) (discounted price of £20 if booking both this workshop and the Spinning New Tales from Old workshop)**

## Folk – Zoe Gilbert & The Bookshop Band

7.00pm-9.30pm – St Andrew’s Church, Andreas

Zoe’s debut novel, *Folk*, was published earlier this year by Bloomsbury. Inspired by her visits to the Isle of Man, the novel is set in the island village of Neverness and draws on myth and folklore, with the tales interweaving over the course of a generation.

Joining Zoe for the night will be The Bookshop Band - Beth Porter and Ben Please - who have toured the UK and further abroad for the last eight years, appearing at numerous bookshops and festivals. They have released 13 albums in that time and been commissioned by the V&A Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and most recently have written two songs for the launch of Philip Pullman’s *The Book of Dust*.

With Zoe talking about *Folk* and how the Isle of Man inspired her writing, Beth and Ben playing two sets of folktale-inspired songs - and a guest appearance by Isle of Man singer Simon Smart - it promises to be a magical night in the beautiful setting of St Andrew’s Church in Andreas.

If you’d like to enjoy a drink during the evening, we are happy for you to bring your own.

[zoegilbert.com](http://zoegilbert.com) • [thebookshopband.co.uk](http://thebookshopband.co.uk)

Event sponsored by *Lingua Franca* ([linguafranca.im](http://linguafranca.im))

**TICKETS – £10.00 – Villa Gaiety box office 01624 600555 or [villagaiety.com](http://villagaiety.com), Villa Marina reception & Sea Terminal Welcome Centre. Also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey**



## The Book Fanatics’ Quiz Night

8.00pm-10.30pm – Noa Bakehouse, Fort Street, Douglas

The annual Manx Litfest night of literary laughs and madcap fun, as teams battle it out to be crowned the Isle of Man’s bookish quiz champs. It’s always a packed night at Noa, so be sure to get your teams sorted and tickets booked. The Book Fanatics’ Quiz Night shield is up for grabs, and there will be spot prizes too throughout the night. Several of our visiting authors will be there, so it’s an early opportunity to meet them, and our partner bookseller, Bridge Bookshop, will have its pop-up bookshop along for the ride, selling titles from our visiting authors. Teams should ideally have a maximum of six people, so if you’re in a big group, why not split into two teams – and give the night that extra competitive edge!

Event sponsored by *Assist Consultancy* ([assist.im](http://assist.im))

**TICKETS – £8.00 – Villa Gaiety box office 01624 600555 or [villagaiety.com](http://villagaiety.com), Villa Marina reception & Sea Terminal Welcome Centre. Also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey**

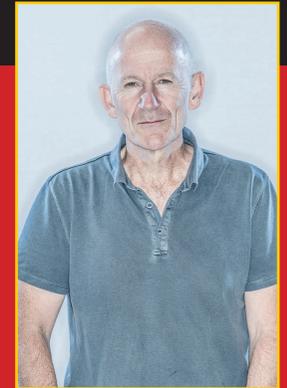
# Friday, September 28

## Schools’ Day

9.00am-3.30pm – Schools across the Island

This is an integral part of what Manx Litfest is all about – encouraging youngsters to read more and write more. Each year we send a team of authors, poets, illustrators and storytellers – both visiting and Island-based – out around Manx primary and secondary schools to deliver a host of talks, workshops, readings and performances. This year we are reaching 25 schools and colleges.

*Schools’ Day* is sponsored by *Estera* ([estera.com](http://estera.com))



## Rona Halsall on the Mobile Library

Rona’s debut novel, *Keep You Safe*, is a psychological thriller set in the Isle of Man. Rona was published by Bookouture in August 2018, as part of a two-book deal, and she will be guest of the day for the team on the Mobile Library, which continues to perform such a vital service for our community. Not only is it a meeting centre in the towns and villages where it makes its regular stops, the library provides a direct-to-your-door delivery service for avid readers who can’t get out and about. The Library will be taking Rona north, to Andreas, Jurby, Ramsey and Glen Mona.

[madeleinemilburn.co.uk/mm-authors/rona-halsall](http://madeleinemilburn.co.uk/mm-authors/rona-halsall)



## *The Secret Diary of John Drawbridge, Medieval Knight in Training* – Philip Ardagh

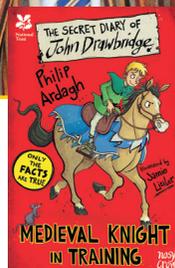
5.00pm-6.30pm – Castle Rushen, Castletown

Prize-winning children's author Philip Ardagh entertains young readers in the fabulous setting of the Presence Chamber inside Castle Rushen. The author of more than 100 books, including his popular Grubtown Tales, Philip is one of the biggest names in children's literature – literally – he is six feet seven inches tall! Philip will be focusing on *John Drawbridge – Medieval Knight in Training*, with other titles in the series including *Thomas Snoop – Tudor Boy Spy*, and *June Pinny – Victorian House Maid*.

[nosycrow.com/contributors/philip-ardagh/](http://nosycrow.com/contributors/philip-ardagh/)

Event sponsored by Manx National Heritage ([manxnationalheritage.im](http://manxnationalheritage.im))

**TICKETS – £4.00 – available from [manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/meet-philip-ardagh-castle-rushen/](http://manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product/meet-philip-ardagh-castle-rushen/)**



## *Boy Meets Hamster* – Q&A with author Birdie Milano

5.45pm-7.15pm – The Alpine Café, Regent Street, Douglas

*Boy Meets Hamster*, the debut novel from Birdie Milano, is a laugh-out-loud coming-of-age story about 14-year-old Dylan Kershaw, whose idea of a dream holiday includes at least three things: beaches to bask on, cosmopolitan culture, and a chance for romance (or at least his first kiss) with another boy. Unluckily for Dylan, his mum's treating the family to the least dreamy holiday ever: a £9.50 break at Starcross Sands, Cornwall's Crummiest Caravan Park.

But Starcross Sands might not be so bad after all, especially if Dylan can win the heart of Jayden-Lee, the gorgeous boy in the caravan next-door. There's only one thing standing in true love's way: the park's massive hamster mascot, Nibbles, who seems to have it in for both Dylan and his romantic chances. *Boy Meets Hamster*, for ages 11+, was published by Macmillan earlier this year and Birdie will be answering questions about the book and her writing.

[panmacmillan.com/authors/birdie-milano](http://panmacmillan.com/authors/birdie-milano)

Event sponsored by The Alpine Cafe ([thealpinecafe.com](http://thealpinecafe.com))

**FREE EVENT – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to reserve your place**

## *Influential Women, Powerful Words* – discussion panel with Elizabeth Brooks, Rona Halsall and Thommie Gillow

6.00pm-7.15pm – Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas

As we mark 200 years since the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* at the Gaiety Theatre later this evening, and with 2018 also marking 200 years since the birth of Emily Brontë, we look at the enduring influence of female writers on literature through the ages.

**FREE EVENT – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to reserve your place**



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas			The Book Fanatics' Quiz Night 8.00pm-10.30pm
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26	St Andrew's Church, Andreas	Spinning New Tales from Old - writing workshop with author Zoe Gilbert 11.30am-1.00pm	Literary-inspired Songwriting – workshop with The Bookshop Band 1.30pm-2.30pm	FOLK – Zoe Gilbert & The Bookshop Band 7.00pm-9.30pm
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas			Open Mic Poetry Slam 8.00pm-10.30pm
	Conrod's coffee shop, Ramsey			Introduction to Bibliotherapy 6.30pm-8.00pm

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28				
Schools across the Island	Castle Rushen, Castletown	The Alpine Café, Douglas	Villa Marina Arcade	Gaiety Theatre
Schools' Day 9.00am-3.30pm				
	The Secret Diary of John Drawbridge, Medieval Knight in Training 5.00pm-6.30pm	Boy Meets Hamster 5.45pm-7.15pm	Influential Women, Powerful Words 6.00pm-7.15pm	
				FRANKENSTEIN 8.00pm-10.00pm

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29				
King William's College, Castletown	King's Court Theatre, King William's College	St John's School, St John's	Garey Ny Cloie, St John's	Noa Bakehouse, Douglas
Writers' Day 9.00am-4.00pm	Storytelling Workshop 10.30am-2.30pm			
		The World of Norm 11.30am-12.30pm		
			Once Upon a Wild Wood 1.30pm-4.30pm	
	The Devil, the Tsar & the 3 Dry Biscuits 4.30pm-5.30pm			
				Poems to Live Your Life By 8.00pm-9.30pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30

Peel Cathedral			Moonbrella 7.15pm-9.00pm
Noa Bakehouse, Douglas		The Manx Litfest Short Story Slam Final 3.30pm-6.00pm	
Castletown Civic Centre	Goth Girl and the Sinister Symphony 10.30am-11.30am	The Story Behind the Songs – Louise Jordan 12.15pm-1.15pm	

## Friday, September 28

### Frankenstein – performance storytelling with Ben Haggarty & musician Sianed Jones

8.00pm-10.00pm – Gaiety Theatre, Douglas

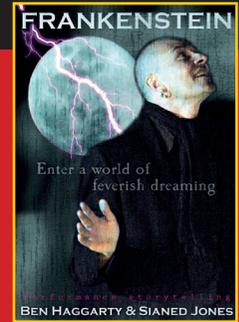
From acclaimed UK performance storyteller Ben Haggarty and musician Sianed Jones comes this intense Steampunk interpretation of Mary Shelley’s classic Gothic tale, *Frankenstein*, which this year celebrates 200 years since it was first published. Originally commissioned by the Hay Festival, these two master performers explore the nature of the consciousness of a man made by man and the responsibility of the creator towards the created. Truly a story for our times, *Frankenstein* speaks of power unleashed and our fear of the unknown. Drawing on the original story, Hollywood’s cinematic retellings, Greek and Jewish legends, and pop culture, this powerful and startling contemporary performance combines spoken narrative, vocals, bass and electric violin, to lure audiences into the imagined world of Dr Frankenstein and the monster he created.

Internationally renowned for his playful and dynamic performances, Ben Haggarty, founder of The Crick Crack Club, tells his stories with infectious charm and ease. Composer, multi-instrumentalist and singer Sianed Jones has been variously described as having a voice like that of a ‘wailing Welsh banshee’, ‘a soft seducer’ and ‘a passionate revolutionary’.

Please note - unsuitable for anyone under 16

benhaggarty.com • sianed.co.uk

**TICKETS – £15.00, concessions £12.00 – Villa Gaiety box office 01624 600555 or [villagaiety.com](http://villagaiety.com), Villa Marina reception & Sea Terminal Welcome Centre. Also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey**



## Saturday, September 29

### Writers’ Day

9.00am-4.00pm – King William’s College, Castletown

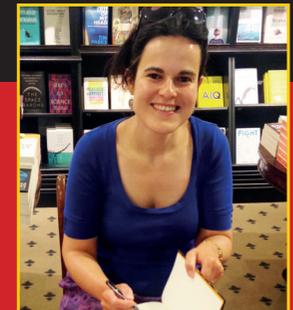
Manx Litfest’s main event for writers, with something for everyone – a panel discussion on routes to publication (with Elizabeth Brooks and Rona Halsall), writing masterclasses, a storytelling workshop, and a Q&A with literary agent Jonathan Ruppin – and not forgetting the highly sought-after agent pitch slots, when writers get a one-to-one with Jonathan for feedback on their manuscript. Previous Writers’ Days have led to Island-based authors landing an agent – here’s hoping there is more success on the way after this year’s event!

It all gets underway at 9.00am with registration (and tea/coffee) and runs until 4.00pm. Tea/coffee and a buffet lunch are included in the price.

[ruppinagency.com](http://ruppinagency.com)

Event sponsored by PokerStars ([pokerstars.com](http://pokerstars.com))

**TICKETS – £30.00 – to book your place, or to enquire about agent slots, email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com)**





**Storytelling Workshop – Ben Haggarty**

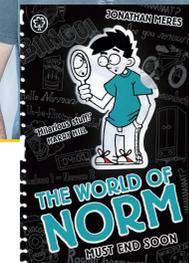
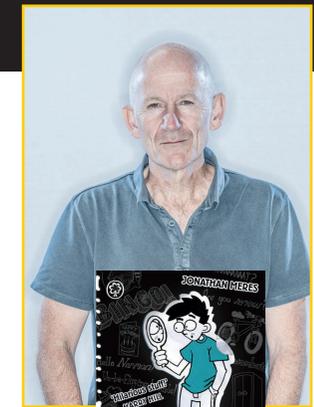
10.30am-2.30pm – King’s Court Theatre, King William’s College, Castletown

Ben Haggarty is one of the world’s leading contemporary storytellers, creating and performing work inspired by international fairy tales, myths and epics. This is his third visit to Manx Litfest and on his last visit, his storytelling workshop led to an Isle of Man storytelling group being established. Renowned for his playful, physical and often challenging performances, he regularly plays stages as diverse as Soho Theatre, The British Museum, Shakespeare’s Globe, the Barbican, York Theatre Royal, and Cheltenham, Hay and Durham Literature Festivals. He has been a guest artist in over one hundred International Storytelling Festivals in 25 countries. Ben was the driving force behind the revisioning of storytelling as a contemporary performing art in the UK. He is a much sought-after teacher and director of storytellers, Honorary Professor of Storytelling at the Arts University of Berlin, and founder and Artistic Director of the legendary Crick Crack Club.

Please note - this workshop is also open to those attending our Writers’ Day at King William’s College. If you are attending Writers’ Day, you don’t need to buy a ticket to Ben’s workshop

benhaggarty.com • crickcrackclub.com

TICKETS – £25.00 – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to reserve your place



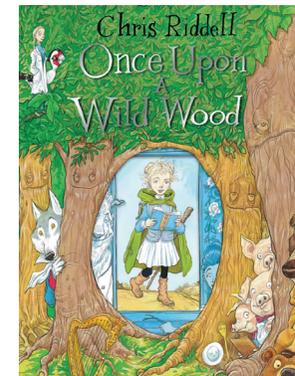
**The World of Norm – Jonathan Meres**

11.30am-12.30pm – St John’s School, St John’s

Jonathan Meres’ brings his award-winning *The World of Norm* children’s books to Manx Litfest 2018, promising riotous fun for young readers! The ‘Norm’ series – about a normal boy called Norman, who lives with his parents and two annoying little brothers – has been translated into 16 languages. Jonathan, a Perrier Award-nominated stand-up comedian, is a hugely entertaining live performer and is in constant demand at schools and book festivals throughout the UK and beyond.

[jonathanmeres.com](http://jonathanmeres.com)

FREE EVENT – please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to reserve your place



**Once Upon a Wild Wood – Family Day, with author & illustrator Chris Riddell**

1.30pm-4.30pm – Garey Ny Cloie, St John’s

We are thrilled to have former Children’s Laureate Chris Riddell with us for this year’s Family Day, when the focus will be on his new picture book for younger readers – *Once Upon a Wild Wood*, which was published on August 23 by Macmillan.

Join Little Green Raincape on a journey through the wild woods and hear about the fairy tale characters she meets along the way. A magical event of fairy tale storytelling and drawing – including a draw-along for the audience (2.30pm-3.30pm).

The beautiful Garey Ny Cloie is a perfect setting for the ‘Wild Wood’ – no tickets needed, just turn up on the day. And kids, you can of course bring some adults with you too!

[chrisriddell.co.uk](http://chrisriddell.co.uk)

FREE EVENT

**The Devil, the Tsar & the 3 Dry Biscuits**

4.30pm-5.30pm – King’s Court Theatre, King William’s College, Castletown

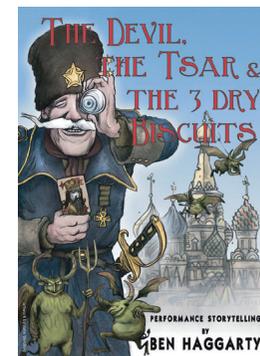
Leading UK performance storyteller Ben Haggarty embarks on his rumbustious version of a famous Russian tale of outwitting and trickery. Scary, enchanting and comedic by turn, this tale of wonder comes complete with magical sacks, strange encounters, wild gambles and devilish adventure!

For all bold and brave children aged 8+ (and their adults).

[benhaggarty.com](http://benhaggarty.com)

Event sponsored by King William’s College

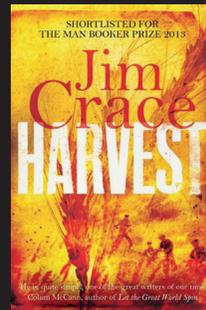
TICKETS – £5.00 (or £15.00 for a family of four) – [ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/isle-of-man/kings-court-theatre-king-williams-college](http://ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/isle-of-man/kings-court-theatre-king-williams-college)



*Calling all writers...*

**Author Jim Crace visiting the Isle of Man in November**

We are thrilled to announce that Jim Crace, twice short-listed for the Booker Prize, is visiting the Island over the weekend of November 11-13. We will be holding two main events – one for the general public and one aimed specifically at writers. We will have more information in due course, but if you would like to register your interest (for either event), please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com)



**Manx Litfest Writers’ Group**

The group meets monthly to share ideas and news... and, of course, write!

To find out more, email [manxlitfestwritersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:manxlitfestwritersgroup@gmail.com)

### **Poems to Live Your Life By – An Evening with Chris Riddell**

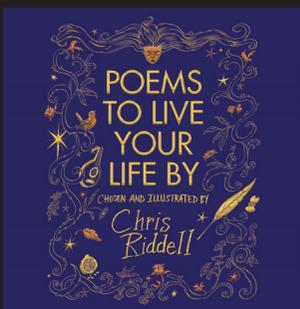
**8.00pm-9.30pm – Noa Bakehouse, Fort Street, Douglas**

Enjoy an evening with former Children's Laureate, author and illustrator Chris Riddell... *Poems To Live Your Life By* is a new book, published by Macmillan on September 20, featuring a collection of Chris's favourite classic and modern poems about life, death and everything in between. The book features illustrations from Chris and includes many famous poems, old and new, and a few surprises – classic verses from William Shakespeare, Lewis Carroll, W. B. Yeats and Christina Rossetti sit alongside poems from Nick Cave, Leonard Cohen, Carol Ann Duffy, Neil Gaiman and Roger McGough. The evening will include readings from some Isle of Man-based poets.

Political cartoonist for The Observer, Chris has written and illustrated numerous books, including his own *Goth Girl* and *Ottoline* series, and illustrated for many leading authors, including Neil Gaiman (*The Graveyard Book*), and JK Rowling (*The Tales of Beedle The Bard*, published next month).

[chrisriddell.co.uk](http://chrisriddell.co.uk)

**TICKETS – £14.00 – Villa Gaiety box office 01624 600555 or [villagaiety.com](http://villagaiety.com), Villa Marina reception & Sea Terminal Welcome Centre. Also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey**



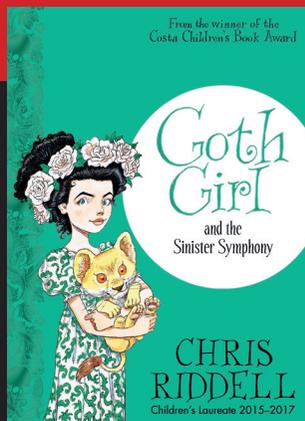
### **Goth Girl and the Sinister Symphony – author & illustrator Chris Riddell**

**10.30am-11.30am – Castletown Civic Centre**

Author & illustrator Chris Riddell (Children's Laureate 2015-2017) entertains young fans of his *Goth Girl* series, as we mark the paperback publication of the latest book, *Goth Girl and the Sinister Symphony*. The story sees Lord and Ada Goth host Gothstock at Ghastly-Gorm Hall and invite the cream of the country's composers: Joseph Haydn-Seek, Franz Sherbert, Felix Meddlesome, and Ludwig van Beetlebrow.

[chrisriddell.co.uk](http://chrisriddell.co.uk)

**TICKETS – £5.00 – Villa Gaiety box office 01624 600555 or [villagaiety.com](http://villagaiety.com), Villa Marina reception & Sea Terminal Welcome Centre. Also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey**



### **The Story Behind the Songs – Louise Jordan**

**12.15pm-1.15pm – Castletown Civic Centre**

Singer & songwriter Louise Jordan visited Flanders, the battlefields of the Somme, and many museums and research centres to create *No Petticoats Here*, a show that shares the extraordinary stories of women who lived during the First World War. Supported by Arts Council England, the show has been performed throughout the UK. Louise will be performing *No Petticoats Here* in the Isle of Man at an event outside of Manx Litfest but has kindly agreed to do a talk for us, based on the stories that inspired the songs she wrote.

[louisejordan.co.uk](http://louisejordan.co.uk) • [nopetticoatshere.co.uk](http://nopetticoatshere.co.uk)

**FREE EVENT - please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to reserve your place**



### **The Manx Litfest**

#### **Short Story Slam Final**

**3.30pm-6.00pm – Noa Bakehouse, Fort Street, Douglas**

The fourth annual Short Story Slam will see writers battling it out to win the coveted shield and a free pass to all events at Manx Litfest 2019!

Zoe Cannell won the inaugural slam in 2015, Pam Smith was champ in 2016, with Benjamin Hickey triumphant in 2017.

This is a free event – both to enter a story, and to attend. To register a story, and to get the full rules, email [manxlitfest@gmail.com](mailto:manxlitfest@gmail.com). The closing date to register entries is Friday, September 14. Due to the popularity of this event, we will be staging heats in the run-up to the festival, with the best stories from each heat going through to the final.

**FREE EVENT**



### **Moonbrella – Thommie Gillow**

**7.15pm-9.00pm – Peel Cathedral**

Performance poet Thommie Gillow returns to Manx Litfest for the first time since our inaugural festival in 2012, when she hosted the first ever Manx Litfest Poetry Slam – which is now such a fundamental part of our schedule each year. Moonbrella was a project for which Thommie was commissioned by Shrinking Space and the British Science Association for

the 2016 British Science Festival event 'Creatures of the Night'. The inspiration was drawn from the fact that out of more than 600 craters on the moon that are named after real people, just 29 are named after women. Moonbrella evokes the lives of some of these women by giving participants a private audience with their story.

What is a Moonbrella? It's a translucent white umbrella, illuminated and dressed to create an immersive, portable, personal space that audience members can carry around. It contains an mp3 player and headphones to allow an audience to listen to poems relating to the person illustrated in the Moonbrella.

[thommiegillow.com](http://thommiegillow.com) • [wisterlitz.wordpress.com/work/moonbrella](http://wisterlitz.wordpress.com/work/moonbrella)

Event sponsored by ManSat ([mansat.com](http://mansat.com))

**TICKETS – £6.00 – spaces are limited, please email [bookings@manxlitfest.com](mailto:bookings@manxlitfest.com) to book your seat**

## THE VENUES

Letter	Venue	Poem	Poet
A	Peter Norris music, 54 Bucks Road	St Lupus, Malew	Jacob O'Sullivan
B	Douglas Development Partnership, 13 Church St	Life in a Department Store	Jack Verity
C	Spill the Beans, 1 Market Hill	Espresso Times	Peta Rooney
D	Henry Bloom Noble Library, 8 Duke St	Chris	Hilda Sethna
E	Manx Pies, 17 Duke St	Time	Mary Moffatt
F	The Eatery, 20A Duke St	Return	Annie Kissack - The 2018 Manx Bard
G	Noa Bakehouse, Fort St	Sisters	Janet Lees
H	WH Smith, Sea Terminal	Message of the Sea	Gill Stephens
I	Waterstones, 25 Strand St	You are the Song	Ros Alcock
J	WH Smith, 48-50 Strand St	Be Kind	Carol Ellis
K	Lexicon, 63 Strand St	Unlucky for Some	Mike Bell-Scott
L	Studio 1, 3 Granville St	Dream Perfumes	Peter Kelly
M	Sayle Gallery, Harris Promenade	Stallion	Liz Atzori
N	Villa Marina (inside foyer)	Lunatic	Jackie Morrey-Grace
O	Eurocycles, 8 Victoria Rd	New Years Day - The Journey Home	Sarah Davidson

